

Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2016/17

Report by Director, Education, Communities and Economy

1 Purpose of Report

To advise Cabinet of the Environmental Health Food Service Plan for 2016/2017 and to recommend approval of the plan.

2 Background

2.1 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls provides the FSA with a mechanism for implementing its powers under the Food Standards Act to influence and oversee local authority enforcement activity and defines a Local Authority's responsibilities in delivering a food enforcement service.

2.2 The Framework Agreement states that the Council has a duty to provide an up to date food service plan and stipulates that *"To help to ensure local transparency and accountability, and to show their contribution to the authority's corporate plan, feed and food service plans and performance reviews should be approved at the relevant level established for that local authority, whether that is Member, Member forum, or suitably delegated senior officer level."*

2.3 The draft Food Service Plan for 2016/2017 is attached as Appendix A. An overview of service performance against the 2015/16 Food Service Plan is attached as Appendix B.
The provisions of the Plan reflect the planning and delivery requirements of feed and food official controls, based on the existing statutory Code of Practice.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no budget implications arising from the Plan that cannot be met from within the existing food safety revenue budget.

3.2 Risk

Environmental Health and Trading Standards are statutory functions and this Plan is produced in pursuance of these functions. Failure to produce and implement a food service plan leaves the local authority open to the challenge of failing in its statutory duty.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- Community safety
- Adult health, care and housing
- Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- Sustainable growth
- Business transformation and Best Value
- None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The adoption of the Environmental Health Food Service Plan contributes to the key priorities of Economic Growth and Business Support and Community Safety.

Business intervention occurs on a pre-determined risk based approach which is transparent, consistent and open to scrutiny.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

This plan seeks to increase the percentage of food businesses 'broadly compliant' with food safety legislation.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Through the implementation of the Food Service Plan Midlothian Council delivers a statutory function and ensures that services are targeted and focused to the most high risk food premises thereby aiming to prevent crises through timely intervention.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Consultation with the Public Analyst service takes place as part of the preparation for the plan. A copy of the plan is published on the Council's website for business, public information and comment.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

As this report does not involve the creation of new or amended strategy or policy no equalities impact assessment has been required.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no identified sustainability issues arising from this report.

3.10 IT Issues

There are no identified IT implications arising from this report

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet approves the Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2016/17.

Date: 25 April 2016

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Background Papers:

Background papers: Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities